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Letter dated 15 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention recent highly provocative and aggressive actions of Turkey which cause serious concern and heighten tension in Cyprus. From 30 September to 14 October 1997, an alarmingly increasing number of violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia have taken place by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force.

On 30 September, at 0914 hours, a C-130 Turkish military plane violated the Nicosia flight information region, flying over its eastern part, and exited at 1008 hours heading in a southerly direction.

On 6 October, at 1017 hours, a CN-235 Turkish military plane violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and landed at Tymbou airport in the occupied areas.

On 12 October, from 0742 hours to 1808 hours, six F-16 Turkish fighter jets violated the north-western part of the Nicosia flight information region. On the same day, four F-16s violated the national airspace of the Republic, flying along the island's southern coast from a westerly to an easterly direction.

On 14 October, 14 Turkish military planes, including F-16 fighter jets, repeatedly entered the Nicosia flight information region over an extended period of time, from 0725 hours to 1804 hours. Two of them, which were RF-4s, violated the national airspace by flying over the area of Paphos.

As indicated in my previous letters, such provocative actions by Turkey, which are continuing, are in contravention of the provisions of the Security

Council resolutions on Cyprus. The resolutions state, inter alia, that such overflights increase political tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement. At the same time they are in violation of the international air traffic rules and seriously endanger civil aviation flights over Cyprus.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to protest strongly once again the new violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, which are in complete disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicos AGATHOCLEOUS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Cyprus
to the United Nations